

## Patent Claims

- 5 1. A method for handling an information item (10)  
which originates from an information provider, is  
made available by a service provider and can be  
called via a communications network, comprising  
the following method steps:
- 10 a) an ident code (15) which identifies the  
information item (10) is allocated to the  
information provider by the service provider,  
and
- 15 b) the information item (10) is deleted if the  
ident code (15) is not transmitted, to the same  
provider by the information provider.
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the  
ident code (15) is transmitted, together with a  
20 handling instruction (20, 30, 40) relating to the  
information item, to the service provider by the  
information provider.
3. The method as claimed in claim 2, in which, during  
25 the transmission of the ident code (15), together  
with a handling instruction (20, 30, 40), by the  
information provider, the service provider handles  
the information item (10) in accordance with the  
handling instruction (20, 30, 40).
- 30 4. The method as claimed in claim 2 or 3, in which  
the handling instruction comprises changing the  
information item (30), retaining the information  
item (20) or deleting the information item (40).
- 35 5. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, in  
which the monitoring period can be predetermined.
6. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5, in

which the monitoring period takes place automatically.

- 5 7. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6, in which the communications network (5) is the Internet.
- 10 8. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, in which the ident code (15) is transmitted to the information provider by e-mail.
- 15 9. The method as claimed in one of claims 2 to 8, in which the ident code (15) is transmitted, together with the handling instruction (20, 30, 40) relating to the information item, to the service provider by e-mail.
- 20 10. The method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, in which the information item (10) made available has at least the last update date of the information (10).

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